

HOUSE BILL 162

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, relative to financial aid.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, is amended by adding  
the following as a new part:

**49-4-1101.**

The purpose of this part is to provide a student who has lost a family member to  
COVID-19, and who is enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution, with a state grant  
to assist the student in completing the student's degree or credential.

**49-4-1102.**

As used in this part:

(1) "COVID-19" means an infectious respiratory disease caused by the  
coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2, which was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei  
Province, China, in December of 2019;

(2) "Eligible postsecondary institution" means an institution operated by:

(A) The board of regents;

(B) The board of trustees of the University of Tennessee; or

(C) A local governing board of trustees of a state university;

(3) "Family member" means a spouse, parent, sibling, or child;

(4) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled at an eligible  
postsecondary institution who has had a family member die as a direct result of  
the family member contracting COVID-19; and

(5) "TSAC" means the Tennessee student assistance corporation.

**49-4-1103.**

(a) Subject to appropriation, TSAC shall provide a one-time grant to an eligible student to assist the student in completing the student's degree or credential.

(b) TSAC shall establish guidelines for determining the amount of a grant awarded to an eligible student and shall promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this part, as determined by the corporation. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds shall not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to award grants to eligible students enrolled in eligible postsecondary institutions in the 2021-2022 academic year or in a subsequent academic year.